

captured four of my pickets this day (Mr. Terry & Windley of my company & two of Co "C") and eight horses the men having dismounted & taken the swamp. The enemy's force were seven hundred cavalry & four pieces of artillery. My pickets only numbered 15 at five different posts. On 10th I went by order to Gen Longstreet's Hs. Qrs. to receive instructions for the march on Suffolk. I met Gen's Picket, ⁵⁵ Hood ⁵⁶ & Jenkins⁵⁷ and Col Baker⁵⁸

⁵⁵ George Edward Pickett (1825-1875), of Virginia, graduated from West Point in 1846 last in a class of fifty-nine. Breveted twice for his actions in the Mexican War, he served on the Texas frontier and in Washington Territory from 1849 to 1861. He earned the commendation of the United States for holding San Juan Island in Puget Sound until joint occupation arrangements could be made, despite British threats. When he reached Richmond in 1861, he was made colonel and assigned to duty on the lower Rappahannock. Promoted to brigadier general in February, 1862, he led a brigade in the Peninsula campaign with such dash and courage that it earned the sobriquet "the Gamecock brigade." He was severely wounded at Gaines's Mill and did not return to arms until after Lee's first Maryland campaign. After being promoted to major general, he commanded Lee's center at Fredericksburg and served creditably with Longstreet in the Suffolk campaign. The high mark of Pickett's career came on the third day of Gettysburg when, at Longstreet's command, a part of his division gallantly but vainly sought to break the Union center. Ironically, he only formed the troops but did not lead "Pickett's Charge." Neither Pickett nor his division was ever the same again. After commanding the Department of North Carolina and Virginia for some months, he was ordered back to Virginia in time to contain Butler at Bermuda Hundred before retiring to the trenches before Petersburg. He fought in the retreat from Petersburg and surrendered at Appomattox. Returning to civilian life, he refused a commission in the Egyptian army and President Grant's offer of a United States marshalship, preferring instead to accept the Virginia agency of the Washington Life Insurance Company of New York. C. C. Benson, "George Edward Pickett," *Dictionary of American Biography*, XIV, 570-571; Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 651-652; Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 239-240.

⁵⁶ John Bell Hood (1831-1879), of Kentucky, graduated from West Point in 1853. After serving in California and Texas, he resigned as first lieutenant accepting the same rank in the Confederate army. No man rose so rapidly as Hood who was promoted to brigadier general (March, 1862); major general (October, 1862); lieutenant general (February, 1864 to rank from September, 1863); and the temporary rank of full general (July, 1864-January, 1865). He fought at Yorktown, Gaines's Mill, Second Manassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg—where he lost an arm; Chickamauga—where he lost a leg; in the defense of Atlanta—where he commanded; and in the bloody failures of the Franklin and Nashville campaign. Hood was without peer as a combat leader at the brigade and divisional level but failed as an administrator and strategist. He was a successful corps or army commander. Despite his wounds and defeats Hood loved to fight and instilled this quality in the men he led. After the war he was a factor and commission merchant in New Orleans. He, his wife, and his eldest child died there in 1879 of yellow fever. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 407-408; Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 142-143.

⁵⁷ Micah Jenkins (1835-1864), scion of the South Carolina plantation aristocracy, graduated from The Citadel and then established other military schools in his state. Commissioned colonel of the Fifth South Carolina Regiment, he fought well at First Manassas and commanded Jenkins's Palmetto Sharpshooters in the Peninsula campaign. After leading a brigade at Williamsburg, Seven Pines, and Frayser's Farm, he was promoted to brigadier general. He was wounded at Second Manassas, fought in the Tennessee campaign, and was killed at the Wilderness by Confederate fire. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 435.

⁵⁸ Laurence Simmons Baker (1830-1907), of Gates County, was graduated from